



Program #25207 - PEL - Preschool for All Infant Toddler Stabilization FY 2025 Proposed

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Leslee Barnes
Program Offer Type: Operating **Program Offer Stage:** Proposed
Related Programs: 40099B, 72052A, 72052B, 78335
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Universal preschool can have negative impacts on infant and toddler care because the cost of caring for babies and toddlers is much higher than providing care for 3 and 4 year olds. Preschool for All will protect infant and toddler seats by supporting contracted preschool providers through stabilization funding. With these dollars, providers will be able to increase the wages and benefits of educators who work with 0-3 year olds not yet eligible for Preschool for All. This will increase stability across Multnomah County’s early childhood landscape as Preschool for All scales to full universality by 2030.

Program Description

ISSUE: Preschool expansions in communities outside Multnomah County have led to decreases in infant and toddler seats. This is largely because of the high costs associated with care for babies and toddlers. The required ratio of teachers to children is much higher for younger age groups, making the cost of care more expensive. This higher cost can incentivize providers to stop offering infant and toddler seats. Multnomah County is already considered a child care desert for infants and toddlers because there are more than three children for every infant and toddler child care seat.¹

PROGRAM GOAL: Preschool for All’s implementation plan incorporated lessons from other communities across the country who expanded preschool access. The funding protects infant and toddler care in Multnomah County by increasing the wages and benefits for teachers who work with babies and toddlers.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: This funding supports the recruitment and retention of infant and toddler teachers and increases pay equity within early education programs. The allocated amount for each preschool provider is determined by their total number of infant and toddler seats.

This funding is only available for contracted Preschool for All sites. Sites must also meet wage requirements for preschool teachers and assistants and they have specific limitations on how the stabilization funding can be used.

Mitigating the potential negative impacts of preschool expansion was included in the original Preschool for All planning. It is important for Preschool for All to strengthen early education settings serving infants and toddlers to ensure the stability of Multnomah County’s early childhood ecosystem. Infant and toddler stabilization funding will help more Multnomah County families have the child care and early childhood education resources they need.

¹Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Total number of Preschool for All locations that are offering infant/toddler care.	N/A	N/A	N/A	66
Outcome	Percentage of providers who report that stabilization funding supported them in maintaining infant/toddler slots	N/A	N/A	N/A	95%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,034,236
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,034,236
Program Total:	\$0		\$6,034,236	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 25205 PEL - Preschool for All Pilot Sites

In FY 2024, Infant Toddler Stabilization was budgeted within the Preschool for All Pilot Sites program (25205) at \$4.0 million. In FY 2025, Infant Toddler Stabilization is separated out into its own program offer.